

Claims

What is claimed is:

1 1. A communication adapter selection method for selecting a given
2 communication adapter in a system environment in which a plurality of
3 communication adapters are installed in a computer apparatus to communicate with
4 an external entity, comprising the steps of:

5 storing information for identifying among the plurality of communication
6 adapters a communication adapter specified by a user as a communication adapter
7 to be enabled;

8 determining whether the plurality of communication adapters installed in said
9 system are available or not; and,

10 enabling said communication adapter specified by the user if it is determined
11 that said communication adapter specified by the user is available.

1 2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of disabling,
2 among communication adapters determined to be available, communication
3 adapters other than said enabled communication adapter.

1 3. A communication adapter selection method for selecting a given
2 communication adapter in a system environment in which a plurality of
3 communication adapters are installed in a computer apparatus to communicate with
4 an external entity, comprising the steps of:

5 receiving an input event for identifying among the plurality of
6 communication adapters installed in the system a communication adapter specified
7 by a user as an adapter to be enabled; and

8 in response to said input event, enabling said communication adapter
9 specified by the user and disabling a communication adapter that is enabled before
10 said input event is received.

1 4. A communication adapter selection method for selecting a given
2 communication adapter in a system environment in which a plurality of
3 communication adapters are installed in a computer apparatus, comprising the
4 steps of:

5 storing the number of communication adapters required by a user;

6 enabling among said plurality of communication adapters a given
7 communication adapter based on said stored number of the communication
8 adapters; and

9 disabling communication adapters other than said enabled communication
10 adapter.

1 5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the priorities assigned to set up
2 communication adapters are stored and the given communication adapter is
3 enabled based on said stored number of the communication adapters and said
4 stored priorities.

1 6. A communication adapter selection method for selecting a given
2 communication adapter in a system environment in which a plurality of
3 communication adapters are installed in a computer apparatus to communicate with
4 an external entity, comprising the steps of:

5 pre-registering information about a communication adapter to be enabled in
6 response to a predetermined condition of an operating environment of said
7 computer apparatus;

8 detecting event information generated by a change in the operating
9 environment of said computer apparatus;

10 analyzing said event information to determine whether said event information
11 meets said predetermined condition of said operating environment or not; and,

12 if said event information meets said predetermined condition of said
13 operation environment, enabling a communication adapter to be enabled in
14 response to said predetermined condition of the operating environment.

1 7. A communication adapter selection method for enabling a given
2 communication adapter in a system environment comprising communication
3 adapters installed in a portable information device and a communication adapter
4 installed in an expansion unit attachable to said portable information device,
5 comprising the steps of:

6 reading priority information in which a priority assigned to a communication
7 adapter constituting the system is set from a profile;

8 determining whether all the communication adapters configured in said
9 system are available or not; and,

10 if it is determined that the communication adapter installed in said expansion
11 unit is available and said read priority information indicates that the priority of said
12 communication adapter installed in said expansion unit is higher than the priority
13 of the communication adapters installed in said portable information device,
14 enabling said communication adapter installed in said expansion unit.

1 8. The method according to Claim 7, wherein said communication adapters
2 installed in said portable information device is disabled if said communication
3 adapter installed in said expansion unit is enabled.

1 9. The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the communication
2 adapters installed in said portable information device is a wireless LAN adapter;
3 and

4 the priority of said wireless LAN adapter set in said read priority information
5 is immediately below the priority of the communication adapter installed in said
6 expansion unit.

1 10. A method for setting up a communication adapter comprising the steps of:

2 reading information about the configuration of a communication adapter configured
3 in a system from a profile;

4 setting a location where the system performs communication;

5 setting a default priority assigned to a communication adapter to be enabled;

6 setting the number of communication adapters to be enabled; and

7 storing in a profile said default priority and said number of the communication
8 adapters to be enabled for each of said set locations.

1 11. A computer apparatus for selecting a given communication adapter in a
2 system environment in which a plurality of communication adapters are installed to
3 communicate with an external entity, said computer apparatus comprising:

4 information storage for storing information identifying among the plurality of
5 communication adapters a communication adapter specified by a user as a
6 communication adapter to be enabled;

7 a determination unit for determining whether the plurality of communication
8 adapters installed in said system are available and;

9 a setting unit for enabling, among communication adapters determined to be
10 available by said determination unit, said communication adapter specified by the
11 user as the communication adapter to be enabled in said information storage.

1 12. The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said setting unit disables
2 communication adapters other than said given communication adapter enabled.

1 13. The apparatus according to Claim 11 further comprising adapter count
2 storage for storing the number of communication adapters to be enabled, wherein
3 said setting unit enables as many communication adapters as said number of the
adapters stored in said adapter count storage, in descending order of priority.

1 14. A computer apparatus for selecting a given communication adapter in a
2 system environment in which a plurality of communication adapters are installed to
3 communicate with an external entity, said computer apparatus comprising:

4 an input event receiving unit for receiving an input event for identifying
5 among the plurality of communication adapters installed in the system a
6 communication adapter specified by a user as an adapter to be enabled; and

7 a setting means for, in response to said input event received by said input
8 event receiving unit, enabling said communication adapter specified by the user
9 and disabling a communication adapter that is enabled before said input event is
10 received.

1 15. A computer apparatus in which a plurality of communication adapters are
2 installed, said computer apparatus communicating with an external entity through
3 said plurality of communication adapters and comprising:

4 a utility for controlling the enable/disable of said communication adapters;

5 and

6 a driver for exchanging data between said utility and said communication
7 adapters;

8 wherein said utility provides a suspend event to said driver if a
9 communication adapter to be enabled is not enabled previously or provides a
10 resume event to said driver if the communication adapter to be enabled is enabled
11 and requested to be disabled.

1 16. The apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said utility inquires of said
2 driver to obtain the number and type of existing communication adapters.

17. A portable information device in which a plurality of communication adapters are installed and which can be connected with a expansion unit in which a given communication adapter is installed, said portable information terminal comprising: storage for storing priority information indicating the order in which the communication adapters are enabled;

a connection recognition unit recognizing the connection of said expansion unit;

an open-operation execution unit for executing an adapter open operation on all the communication adapters including said communication adapter installed in said expansion unit when said connection recognition unit recognizes the connection; and

a setting unit for enabling a given communication adapter among communication adapters successfully opened by said open-operation execution unit according to said priority information stored in said storage.

18. The device according to Claim 17, wherein said priority information stored in said storage varies from location to location where said portable information device is used.

1 19. A portable information device in which a plurality of communication adapters
2 are installed and which can be connected with a expansion unit in which a given
3 communication adapter is installed, said portable information device comprising:

4 a connection recognition unit recognizing the connection of said expansion
5 unit; and

6 a priority connection unit for connecting said communication adapter
7 installed in said expansion unit in preference to the other communication adapters
8 if said connection recognition unit recognizes the connection of said expansion unit.

1 20. The device according to Claim 19 further comprising a disabling unit for,
2 when said priority connection unit connects said communication adapter installed
3 in said expansion unit in preference to the other communication adapters, disabling
4 said other communication adapters installed in said portable information device.

1 21. A storage medium storing a program to be executed by a computer so that
2 said computer can read the program, said program causes said computer to
3 perform the processes for:

4 storing information identifying among the plurality of communication adapters
5 installed in the system a communication adapter specified by a user as an adapter
6 to be enabled;

7 determining whether said plurality of communication adapters installed in
8 said system is available; and

9 enabling said communication adapter specified by the user if said
10 communication adapter specified by the user is available.

1 22. A storage medium storing a program to be executed by a computer so that
2 said computer can read the program, said program causes said computer to
3 perform the processes for:

4 receiving an input event for identifying among the plurality of communication
5 adapters installed in the system a communication adapter specified by a user as an
6 adapter to be enabled; and

7 in response to said input event, enabling said communication adapter
8 specified by the user and disabling a communication adapter that is enabled before
9 said input event is received.